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Security Council

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Letter dated 9 June 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a communication dated 8 June 2000 which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi **Annan**

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Annex to the letter dated 9 June 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

Letter dated 8 June 2000 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on the operations of the Stabilization Force (SFOR). I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Lord **Robertson** of Port Ellen, PC

Appendix

Monthly report to the Security Council on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. During the reporting period (13 April-12 May 2000), there were approximately 22,700 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from all the NATO Allies and from 15 non-NATO countries. Stabilization Force (SFOR) troops continued to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance operations in theatre by means of ground and air patrols. Operations across the SFOR area included area security, monitoring the border with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, monitoring the entity armed forces, conducting weapons storage site inspections, providing support to the international organizations in theatre, and collecting weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation Harvest 99, which has been extended.

2. SFOR troops continued to monitor compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998), which prohibits the transport of weapons into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, by providing an intensified presence on the ground in order to enforce the embargo. No violations were reported.

3. On 21 April, SFOR troops in Multinational Division (North) detained a Bosnian Serb, Dragan Nikolic, indicted for war crimes by the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.[1] Nikolic was subsequently transported to The Hague.

4. The restructuring of SFOR, due to be completed by the end of May, will result in a smaller and more flexible force of around 22,000 personnel, which will remain fully capable of carrying out its mandate. The move of SFOR headquarters and supporting elements from Ilidza to Butmir began on 1 May.

5. During the reporting period, SFOR also continued to monitor the movement of controlled petroleum products into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by establishing traffic control points. No violations were reported.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

6. The situation in theatre remained relatively stable during the reporting period, with the entities in substantial compliance with the military provisions of the Peace Agreement. Nonetheless, there were sporadic violent incidents, largely related to the return of refugees and displaced persons. On 17 April, rocks were thrown by Bosnian Serbs at Bosniacs rebuilding a house in Klanac, a suburb of Brcko in Multinational Division (North). On 27 April, in Cela (Multinational Division (South-west)), a group of Bosnian Serbs attacked a tent camp of Bosniacs. On 8 May in Drvar (Multinational Division (South-west)), a group of Croat refugees physically attacked Serb returnees. On 11 May, around 200 protestors prevented a group of women from the "Mothers of Srebrenica" organization from visiting Bratunac (Multinational Division (North)) to commemorate the eighth anniversary of the deportation of Muslims from that town. During the unrest, an SFOR soldier was hit in the face with a rock and suffered minor injuries.

7. The long-standing farmers' demonstration between Gorazde and Kopaci in Multinational Division (South-west) continued during the reporting period. Some 80

[1] The Russian Federation confirms its special position on this matter.

displaced persons protested in front of the Gorazde premises of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) against the obstruction by the Mayor of Gorazde of returns, and the allegedly passive attitude of the international community. SFOR troops monitored the protest, which was conducted peacefully.

8. During the period, SFOR troops conducted 106 military weapons storage site inspections: 26 Bosniac; 26 Bosnian Croat; 41 Bosnian Serb; and 13 Federation. No violations were reported.

9. SFOR troops monitored 1,272 training and movement activities: 335 Bosniac; 102 Bosnian Croat; 657 Bosnian Serb; and 178 Federation. The training and movement ban on the Republika Srpska Police Anti-Terrorist Brigade remains in force until further notice. On 28 April, a training and movement ban was imposed on elements of the Bosniac Army at Rastasnica (Multinational Division (North)) owing to non-compliance during a weapons confiscation operation.

10. Two unauthorized checkpoints were established by local police near Bijeljina in Multinational Division (North) in mid-April, and were subsequently dismantled by the United Nations International Police Task Force (IPTF) and SFOR.

11. The summer de-mining season continued over the reporting period, with 44 entity armed forces de-mining teams operational in theatre.

Cooperation with international organizations

12. Within capabilities, and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, IPTF, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Office of the High Representative, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and UNHCR.

13. During the period, SFOR continued to support minority returnees and refugees by delivering basic supplies. SFOR Civil-Military Cooperation Teams are currently assessing reconstruction projects of houses and infrastructure. During the month of April, there were 2,269 returns of displaced persons and refugees and 4,387 visits monitored by SFOR. The majority of those returns and visits took place in the western part of the Republika Srpska, especially around Doboj, although key returns also took place in the Foca and Prljedor regions.

14. SFOR continued to monitor the situation closely in the aftermath of the 8 April municipal elections, especially after the announcement of the final results and the installation of newly elected officials.

15. No meeting of the Standing Committee for Military Matters was held during the reporting period.

Outlook

16. Isolated incidents of violence related to the return of refugees and displaced persons can be expected to continue.